



Emanuel Lutheran Church

May 2015

9 New London Avenue
West Warwick, RI 02893
401-821-8888

Pastor Todd Stange

Celebrating Our 128th Year

Our Purpose Statement: Emanuel – Boldly joining God in sharing our gifts and love.

***Listening for God
through prayer,
scripture and discussion***

***Following Christ's
example***

***Generously sharing
God's grace***

***Passion – having it,
using it!***

Being organized

***Following through –
walking the walk***

Is it Okay to Make a Phone Call During Worship?

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



It was about 15 years ago that I got my first cell phone. I was a late adapter, and a slow adapter. For a long time I just used my phone to **make phone calls**. I didn't give my cell number out to many people and it was several months before I received my first call on it. When I

did, though, it was memorable. I was at church, not on a Sunday, but on a week night for a **Stephen's Ministry class**, and when the call came in we were in a circle holding hands praying.

In this edition:

- Message from Pastor Stange
- May Calendar
- Birthdays
- Upcoming Events
- And much more!

Deadline for the June newsletter is May 20th .

Notices can be left in the office, emailed to: emanuelwwnews@gmail.com or leave a message at: (860)-208-0762
Thank you! -Mike Gadoury

The ring was loud and because I was a novice with the phone it took me a few moments to silence the ringer. I was mortified and apologized, and thankfully the group was gracious. They shared stories about similar things that had happened to them.

I never actually answered that call. Given that we were praying and the disruptive noise of the call, it probably would have been inappropriate for me to answer it and have a conversation right then. But what if there was no ring and I could have had a silent conversation? Would it have been okay for me to take a step back and have the conversation then?

Texting allows us to do just this. You can receive and send texts without making a lot of noise, wherever you happen to be. So, is it okay to text during worship? Or what about surfing the web or checking our emails? All of this is possible on our cell phones today.

Of course during prayer people should probably concentrating on praying, but what about other **times of the service like during the Bible readings or during communion, after you've communed** and are just waiting – is it okay to text then?

When I was in seminary, people often would surf the web and check Facebook during class. Some professors specifically asked students to not do this, and most complied, but not all. From the **front of the room the professors couldn't tell whether someone was taking notes or sending an email**, but if you were sitting next to them or behind them, you could tell, and sometimes it was distracting.

I raise this question about texting and using the internet during worship, because it happens at Emanuel and someone recently asked me what I thought about it.

On the surface it sounds like something you obviously shouldn't be doing – texting during worship. However, I must confess that I have received and sent texts during meetings. And I often will send emails to myself during meetings, to remind myself of things I need to do later. And even before cell phones, during worship I would sometimes take the pew pencil out and write notes on the cover the bulletin. Sometimes these notes were even inspired by the sermon. Was this inappropriate? Is this much different than texting?

Back in the 16th century Martin Luther famously wrote that Christians are “**simultaneously both saints and sinners.**” We're sinners – because we sin, and we're saints – because God loves us so much he forgives our sin and sees us as saints. Henceforth, Lutherans have been known for not giving clear cut answers. This I believe is also true regarding this question about texting in church.

Is it okay to text in church? The answer is – it depends. If worship inspires you to text out a word of grace to a person in need, this is good and appropriate. However, if your texting is disturbing the people around you, this is bad and inappropriate. So, what are we to do?

Many years ago, before I was a pastor and when Jill and I were preparing to get married, we were asked us to pick out a Bible passage for our wedding ceremony. I randomly opened the Bible and **put my finger on Romans chapter 14. It's a strange passage about whether or not it's okay for Christians to eat meat or not.** For some reason we thought this was a good reading for our wedding and I looked forward to hearing the pastor preach on it, which he did not. (*He preached on Mark 1 the calling of the disciples instead.*)

Maybe Romans 14 isn't a great wedding passage, but I do think it's helpful in looking at whether it's appropriate to use cell phones in church.

“Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarrelling over disputable matters. One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does...

Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling-block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean. If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love...

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, **peace and joy in the Holy Spirit...**" (Romans 14: 1-3, 13-15, 17)

Texting in worship (or meetings, school, etc.) is not necessarily bad or good. God loves us either way. However, our concern should be with others, our brothers and sisters who are around us. Are we disturbing them, disturbing their worship? If so, then we should refrain, or find a way to do it that's not disruptive.

We are children of a gracious God who loves us to the point of death and beyond. So let us also be guided in our texting and in all our living by love.

Alleluia. He is risen!

Pastor Todd Stange



The 3rd Year confirmation class visited Temple Torat Yisrael in East Greenwich on April 28th. Rabbi Aaron Philmus led a wonderful evening that included leading

chickens into their coup and reading from a Torah scroll.



Emanuel's Bible study will be held every other week after the 10:30 service.

Grab a coffee & snack and head over to

Anderson Lounge

Please consider coming, all are welcome!



Holiday
Bazaar

Christmas Bazaar Workshops
Tuesdays at 6pm
Anyone is Welcome!



Easter at
Emanuel on
April 5th was
a great
celebration!



Having a function at Emanuel?

Please remember to fill out a function form.

Function forms can be found in the church office.

Function forms help us ensure that rooms are not double-booked and that we have custodial support when it is needed.

Thank you.

POSTING AN ANNOUNCEMENT

For the weekly reminder (Emanuel Herald) sent out on Mon. or Tue. All submissions must be received in the church office (preferably by e-mail) no later than Sunday morning. Postings for the printed weekly announcement sheet must be received by the previous Sunday.

Churchoffice@EmanuelWW.org

For the newsletter: Please send items to Mike Gadoury no later than the 20th of each month.

Email to: EmanuelWWNews@gmail.com

During worship in the sanctuary, please remember to be kind to those around you:

- Turn off cell phones (or switch them to vibrate).
- Wait until after worship to discuss church business or catch up with family and friends.

Thank you!

Drama & Music Camp is coming!

June 29th – July 3rd
8:30am to 12:30pm

Ages 8 to 14

Call for more info
(401) 821-8888



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Fred Brown
Diane Gadoury 11
Tyler Hayes 5
Pat Johnson 13
Elaine Johnson 23
Laurie Phillips 30
Amy Lancellotta
Justin Lucier
Leah Morgan
Jeff McGowan
David Nunez
Laurie Phillips
Joanne Powers
Lynne Wolff



*Contact Kym in the Church
office if we missed your
birthday or anniversary, or
give us the exact date.
We would love to have our
records up to date!*

We are looking for a few volunteers who
are willing to work in the church office
when our office administrator is on
vacation or sick.

If you might be able to help in the office,
please let Pastor Todd know –

(401) 821-8888 or

pastor@emanuelww.org.

Thank you.

Readers of Emanuel



Next gathering
Sunday May 17th
at 12:00pm in
Jacob's Hall

The books is:
"Alone on the Oregon Trail"
by Vanessa Carvo



Thank you to Sue Wieboldt and whole host of others who made this year's Smorgasbord on April 25th a fantastic success! \$1,168.00 were raised. Thank you!

Senior Live Laugh & Learn

The next luncheon will be held:
Wednesday, May 13, 2015

11:45 AM to 2:00 PM
at

The Crow's Nest
288 Arnolds Neck Dr.
Warwick, RI

Estimated cost \$8 - \$20

Please sign the sign-up sheet in the narthex if you plan to attend.

I need to give the restaurant a count.
For last minute decision, call Helen Maine at
Home: 401-397-3566
Cell: 401-464-1011

Email: helenmaine@gmail.com

Over 90
people showed up at Emanuel on April
8th to hear Bishop Jim Hazelwood
and to think about what might be next

Blood Drive at Emanuel

Sunday May 10th
9:30am – 12:30pm





If you know a child 8 years old to 16 years old, we'd like to help send them for a week of camp. Campership funds are being given away now for Camp Calumet.

Camp Calumet is in West Ossipee, New Hampshire and sits on beautiful Lake Ossipee. For over 50 years people have been making friends, getting closer to God, and having fun at Calumet. www.calumet.org

Emanuel's 130th Anniversary Committee will meeting to organize the celebration of 130 years in September 2016. Our first meeting will be **held Wednesday, May 13 at 7pm in Jacobs' Hall.**

All are welcome!!



Emanuel's Riley Chabot and his Bishop Hendricken team won the Rhode Island Academic Decathlon March. In April they represented Rhode Island at the national championships in California and placed 14th in the country. Congratulations!



Emanuel Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
March 12, 2015

Agenda and Minutes

Color codes:

Red = who is going to do something or is asked to do something

Blue = something that needs to be done, but no one specific has been identified

Green = **Linda Sami, please correct me on this.**

Present: Pastor Todd, Gwen Andersen, Myron Gadoury, Beth Groleau, Bruce Johnson, Disa Johnson, Glenn Johnson, Helen Maine, Kathy Plante, Linda Sami, Donna Sennett, Margaret Teehan, and Ken Wieboldt.

Absent: Pam Beck (away), Carolyn Duprey (sick), Lee Jacobs (away), Kris Knapp, Walter Phaneuf (away), and Jim Schabek (working).

The meeting was called to order at 7:04.

1. Opening Devotions (Pastor)
 - a. 1st Kings – story of God appearing to Elijah
 - b. Where have we heard God whisper to us in the recent past?
2. Approve February Minutes Approved
3. Review Annual Meeting Minutes

Ready to share with congregation; they will approve them at the next Annual meeting.

a. Beth will send them to Michael Gadoury to include in the next newsletter.

- We discussed putting committee reports in the newsletter so that the congregation gets more information about what is being done and what is being planned.
- One goal is to let the congregation know ahead of time about the special things that are planned for worship services so that people might be interested in making a special effort to attend.

1. Bruce will type the minutes for Worship and send them to whoever needs them (Pastor, Kym, Michael Gadoury) so that those who prepare the Herald and newsletter can share announcements in the publications.

- Perhaps Committee Reports could be placed on our website with a

link in the Herald or newsletter.

4. Review February Budget

- Carol Johnson is asked to provide an itemized accounting of the snow-plowing expenses, showing Emanuel's share and Joyful's share.
- Remember that this report is only through February. It doesn't include plowing bills for March. Joyful has not reimbursed Emanuel yet for all of its share.

5. Pastor's Health Insurance

- a. Jill Stange got a new job at Brown University. She can get health and dental benefits for the whole family from her job. She has 30 days to decide.
- b. If Jill takes advantage, the plan is somewhat comparable to the old plan. It is still with Blue Cross. Since the deductible has already been paid, Kathy Plante thinks that the deductible might be carried over by Blue Cross to the new plan.
- c. Now Emanuel pays \$21, 422 for the health and dental benefits. If Jill takes the plan, the costs to the family are projected to be much less.
- d. Finance Committee suggests that a portion of the savings be transferred to a retirement fund for Pastor Todd. (We don't make direct contributions to Pastor's retirement funds .) Myron suggested that this money is part of Pastor's package and he should get the money. The Council agrees. Pastor will still receive the money and he will decide how to allocate the money within his package.

6. Solar energy proposal: **The Council voted to postpone the decision for the future because of finances now.** The sense was that the Council was in favor of the project, but concerned about taking on the expense at this time.

7. Updates: These items have not been completed yet. **Pastor Todd** will work on them and report progress at a future meeting.

- a. Recording of past church records (baptisms, confirmations, weddings, deaths) in the written register book.
- b. Constitution/job descriptions
Ken will send the job descriptions he has to Pastor Todd.

8. Purpose of the Church Council

- a. Ken provided a summary sheet of the purposes listed in the church constitution for our review.
- b. We need to work on goals and long-term planning, so that led to a discussion of when and where to hold a Council Retreat to do that.

- **Kym McGuirk, would you please call Camp Canonicus and ask them about availability and cost for May 1-2 (Friday and Saturday, overnight, beginning with Friday dinner (also including breakfast and lunch on Saturday)?**

9. Goal Setting for 2015
 - a. Will address at the retreat.
 - b. Ask **all Council members** to suggest goals/topics to Ken for discussion at the April council meeting.

10. Other Items
 - a. **Pastor Todd** announced that Emanuel will host a meeting with the Bishop and people from other congregations in RI to talk about whether the New England Synod would hold on to some of the funding it usually sends to the ELCA to allocate to New England mission efforts. **This meeting will be on Wednesday April 8 at 7 p.m.**
 - Myron suggested that if the Synod sets that example, maybe a comment from Emanuel is that maybe we could cut our Synod contribution to allocate more money to mission and outreach in our own local community. Reaction seemed to recognize that he was being partly facetious, but that there was something to think about in the suggestion.
 - **Ken, Gwen, and Kathy will help to set up for the meeting and provide refreshments.**
 - b. **Bruce** announced that he has arranged for training in CPR, use of the AED, and basic first aid on April 25 from 8:30-12:30. He still has to inform Joyful Noise in case anyone there needs the training. The training will take place in Jacobs Hall because that is the same day as Emanuel's Smorgasbord. **Kathy will provide refreshments.**
 - c. **Linda Sami** is collecting used cell phones in any condition for Operation Gratitude. They will be repaired and given to military people and to disabled veterans.
 - d. **Myron** will be meeting with the clergy who work with Teen Challenge at 1 p.m. Monday 3/16 to talk about finding land to use for growing vegetable gardens. He has offered his land to them to grow food for their use. He plans to organize a Thrivent Choice Team to help him buy supplies and seeds for the effort.
 - e. **Myron** also announced that he will be recycling the coat racks that we used to use for the coat drive to make trellises for the gardens he helps to build for the Teen Challenge gardens.
 - f. **Beth** reported on the first meeting of the Endowment Committee and asked that the council consider this the required report for the first quarter. **Please note: When she got home AFTER the meeting, Beth read a message asking that she hold off on the report, so she will not send out the written report and will ask that the report be on the agenda for a future meeting.**

- g. **Mark Johnson** will be graduating from seminary in May.
 - h. **Ivy Gauvin** will be installed as Pastor at St Timothy Lutheran Church at 3748 Route 430 Bemus Point, NY 14712 on April 11 at 3 p.m. She is also pastor at St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church.
 - i. **Donna Sennett** asked if anyone on the Council knows anyone who was affected by the big apartment fire yesterday. How can we find out what help is needed so we can help? Someone suggested contacting the Red Cross. Someone else had seen a FB post from our former member, Carol Moulton Isacco, that she knew someone.
11. Closing
- a. The meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer at 9:25 p.m.
12. Next meeting is Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 7 p.m.



May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>Sunday A.M. Schedule:</u> 8:00 Service of Holy Communion 9:15 Sunday School, Choir 10:30 Service of Holy Communion					1	2
					<i>Council Retreat</i>	
3	4	5 10am <i>Ellie's Circle</i> Food Pantry 10-12 6pm BAZAAR 7pm <i>Confirmation</i>	6	7	8	9
	<i>ALANON</i> 7 pm			<i>Committee Night</i> 7pm		
10 BLOOD DRIVE (9:30-12:30) 12pm Bible Study (JH) Mother's Day	11 <i>ALANON</i> 7 pm	12 10am El- lie's Circle Food Pantry 10-12 6pm BAZAAR Mtg	13 11:45 Senior Luncheon 7pm Emanuel's 130th Anniver- say Committee Mtg. (JH)	14	15	16
17 12pm ROE (JH)	18 <i>ALANON</i> 7 pm	19 10am El- lie's Circle Food Pantry 10-12 6pm BAZAAR Mtg 7pm <i>Confirmation</i>	20	21 <i>Mustard Seed Meeting</i> 6:30pm	22	23
24 No Sunday School 12pm Bible Study (JH) Confirmation Sunday 31	25 <i>Memorial Day</i> <i>ALANON</i> 7 pm	26 10am El- lie's Circle Food Pantry 10-12 6pm BAZAAR Mtg	27	28	29	30